

CLAIMS

1. A musical instrument, comprising:
a string having a first end and a second end;
a tailpiece for securing the first end of the string; and
a head remote from the tailpiece for securing the second end,
comprising:
an anchor connected with the second end; and
an arm for pivoting the anchor about an axis transverse the axis
of the string;
wherein pivoting the anchor in a first direction increases the tension in
the string.
2. The musical instrument of claim 1 comprising a lock to impede pivoting
the arm in a second direction.
3. The musical instrument of claim 2 wherein the lock comprises a
plurality of spaced-apart stops to impede pivoting the arm in a second
direction.
4. The musical instrument of claim 2 wherein the lock allows pivoting of
the arm in the first direction while impeding pivoting of the arm in the
second direction.
5. The musical instrument of claim 1 wherein the lock comprises a
plurality of teeth formed on the arm that cooperate with a plurality of
teeth formed on the head.
6. The musical instrument of claim 1 wherein the head comprises a tuner
for varying the tension in the string while the arm is in a fixed location.

7. The musical instrument of claim 6 wherein the tuner comprises a thumbscrew.
8. The musical instrument of claim 6 wherein the tuner comprises a continuously variable element for continuously varying the tension in the string.
9. The musical instrument of claim 6 wherein the tuner adjusts the position of the anchor.
10. The musical instrument of claim 1 comprising a nut and a bridge, wherein the bridge forms a first critical point for the string and the nut comprises a second critical point, wherein the anchor is adjacent the nut.
11. The musical instrument of claim 10 wherein the anchor is closer to the nut than the pivot axis of the arm.
12. A stringed musical instrument, comprising:
a string having a first end and a second end;
a bridge element adjacent the first end of the string;
an anchor securing the second end of the string remote from the bridge element;
a tensioner operable to displace the anchor in a direction generally parallel to the axis of the string to tension the string.
13. The stringed instrument of claim 12 wherein the tensioner comprises a lever pivotable about a pivot axis disposed transverse the string.
14. The stringed instrument of claim 13 wherein the lever is disposed

- generally parallel to the axis of the string.
- 15. The stringed instrument of claim 12 comprising a lock for impeding displacement of the tensioner in a first direction.
 - 16. The stringed instrument of claim 12 comprising a tuner adjacent the tensioner for varying the tension in the string to tune the string.
 - 17. The stringed instrument of claim 16 wherein the tuner comprises a thumbscrew.
 - 18. The stringed instrument of claim 16 wherein the tuner comprises a continuously variable element for continuously varying the tension in the string to tune the string.
 - 19. The musical instrument of claim 12 wherein the anchor comprises a set screw.
 - 20. The musical instrument of claim 13 wherein the lever is an L-shaped lever.